

YOSHII et al
Serial No. 09/770,634
January 13, 2004

REMARKS

Entry of the amendment instructions above, and favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are requested.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-7, 16-21, 28-33 and 40-44 and the allowability of claims 9-12, 23, 26, 35-38, 46 and 49. By way of the amendment instructions above, claims 9, 23, 26, 35, 46 and 49 have been amended so as to include therein the substance of claims 1, 16, 17, 28, 40 and 41, respectively, but stated as a "reaction product" of the recited mixture components. The dependencies of claims 11-12 and 37-38 have been revised so as to be dependent on the amended versions of claims 9 and 35, respectively.

As compared to the prior set of claims submitted with the Applicants' Amendment dated September 8, 2003, generic "product" claims 15, 24, 27, 39, 47 and 50 have been cancelled. However, such cancellation does not represent a disclaimer of any product which comprises the claimed self-cross-linked alkyl cellulose since the inclusion of such claimed self-cross-linked alkyl cellulose in any "product" of manufacture would constitute a literal infringement by virtue of at least its use in such product.

Claims 1-7, 9-12, 16-21, 23, 26, 28-33, 35-38, 40-44, 46 and 49 remain pending in this application following entry of the subject amendment. All such claims have either been allowed or indicated to be allowable subject to the amendments proffered above. As such, all pending claims herein are in condition for allowance and early receipt of the Official Allowance Notice is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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